<u>REMARKS</u>

Group Election

According to the Office Action, the application contains two distinct Species of the claimed of invention comprising the following:

- I. S-shaped Boot. Claims 1, 13-15, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30.
- II. C-shaped Boot. Claims 16-19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 31.

In response, Applicants elect Group I corresponding to claims 1, 13-15, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30.

Applicants reserve the right to add the non-elected claims upon the allowance of a generic claim containing the same general inventive concept as the non-elected claims.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 433-7221 if any unresolved matters remain with respect to this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

Thomas E. Donohue, Reg. No. 44,660 38525 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2000

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 (248) 433-7221 (direct)

(248) 433-7200 (main)

(248) 433-7274 (fax

Dated: October 11, 2007 BLOOMFIELD 36249-31 871874v1